Computer Hardware Export

1916. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that computer hardware exports had gone upto Rs. 1250 crore in 2000-2001 in comparison to Rs. 600 crore in 1999-2000, registering a 109 percent growth;

(b) if so, what are the target fixed for the current fiscal year; and

(c) the quantum of computer hardware exports made till date?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The export of computer hardware increased from Rs. 600 crores in 1999-2000 to Rs. 1200 crores in 2000-2001, registering a growth of 100%.

(b) The Electronics and Computer Hardware Export Promotion Council (ESC) has set a growth target of 20% for electronic goods in totality.

(c) Export of computer hardware is estimated to be Rs. 700 crores during the first half of the current year (April-September, 2001).

Internet Services

1917. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to increase internet services in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the big cities of Rajasthan proposed to be linked by an international Gateway Hub;

(c) by when approval would be given by Government; and

(d) the number of Computer Information Centres set-up till date by Government indicating the funds allocated to each Centre in the country; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The steps taken by the

Government for promotion of internet services are listed in the enclosed Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) and (c) In Rajasthan, Jaipur and Jodhpur have been provided with Internet nodes by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) connected to National Internet Backbone (NIB). The NIB has got International connectivity through Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) International Gateways at Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai and Pune. No direct international connectivity through international gateways in Rajasthan is envisaged by BSNL. However, seven other Internet Service Providers have been given in principle clearance for setting up of international gateways for internet at Jaipur, Alwar, Kota, Udaipur, Jodhpur in Rajasthan. Out of these the gateway of Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) at Jaipur is only operational and is providing High Speed Data Communication (HSDC) services. This services is being provided since April, 1998. The Gateway is equipped to provide wide bandwidth International Private Leased Circuites (IPLC's) and Internet services to its users in Jaipur. At present STPI has no plan to provide such services in other cities of Rajasthan.

(d) Thirty Community Information Centres (CICs) have been set up as a pilot project till date in the North-East region at an estimated cost of Rs. 15 crores, which includes maintenance and operational costs of CICs for an initial five year period. The state wise location of thirty CICs is at statement-II *(See* below). The project is being implemented as a composite one, and therefore no state wise/CIC wise allocation of funds have been made.

Statement-I

Steps taken by Government for promotion of Internet Services in the country.

(i) Internet Service Provider (ISP) licences are given to Indian Companies on non-exclusive basis. There is no requirement of the applicant company having any prior experience in information Technology or Telecom Services.

(ii) Licence fee up to 31.10.2003 has been waived and subsequently, only a nominal licence fee of Re. 1/- per annum.

(iii) Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have been permitted to set up International Gateways for Internet using satellite and submarine cable medium after getting security clearance. ISPs setting up International Gateways for Internet have been permitted to sell bandwidth to other ISPs.

(iv) A Bandwidth Advisory Committee consisting of eminent personalities of the IT and Telecom Industry has been set up to advise Department of Telecommunication (DoT) on the steps to be taken to ensure that bandwidth is available on demand.

(v) Setting up of National Internet Backbone by BSNL to carry Internet traffic.

(vi) Commissioning of Sanchar Sagar Project by BSNL providing large bandwidth across major cities.

(vii) Under National Long Distance Policy, there are two categories of Infrastructure Providers (IP) namely IP-I who can provide assets such as dark fibres, right of way, duct space etc. And IP-II who can provide end to end bandwidth.

(viii) BSNL, has set up National Internet Backbone (NIB) network with 45 Internet nodes parenting other internet nodes and connected to the VSNL, Gateways at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore and Pune.

(ix) Internet facility is being extended to the customers on local call charge basis to the nearest node.

(x) 1019 Internet Dhabas were opened in the Country as on 31.03.2001.

(xi) With a view to provide internet facility for the masses in North Eastern States and Sikkim, Community Information Centres are being set up at 487 blocks. Besides connectivity, the Centres are equipped with computer and information kiosks.

(xii) As far as BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) is concerned, the increase of Internet is an on-going feature of BSNL plans. presently National Internet Backbone is catering to about 1 lakh customers country-wide and steps are on hand to increase it to 3 lakh.

Statement-II

State-wise location of thirty CICs

Sl. No.	State	District	Block
1.	Assam	Nagaon	Barhampur Batadrawa Binakandi Dalonghat Dhalpukhuri Jugijan Juria Kalibor Kathitoli Khagarijan Lowkhowa Pachim Kaliabar Pakhimoria Raha Rupahihat
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Papumpare	Itanagar Doimukh

Sl. No.	State	District	Block
3.	Manipur	Imphal East	Imphal
		Imphal	East I
			Imphal
			East II
4.	Meghalaya	Ri Bhoi	Umsning
		East Khasi Hill	Myllieum
5.	Mizoram	Aizwal	Thingsul
			Aibawk
6.	Nagaland	Kohima	Kohima
			Jakhama
7.	Tripura	West Tripura	Khowai
			Padmabil
			Tulashikhoor
8.	Sikkim	East District	Gangtok
			Namchi

Extension of Trade Union Act to Sikkim

1918. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Trade Union Act, 1926 has not been extended to Sikkim yet;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to extent the said Act to the State;

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what alternative measures are proposed to be taken to protect the worker's right of association and collective bargaining in the State in the meantime?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (e) Trade Unions Act, 1926 is applicable to the State of Sikkim.